

SUMMER 2019

Outdoor Delaware

50 WAYS TO

Escape the Ordinary

at DNREC State Parks & Wildlife Areas



*Special Pullout Map Section:
Find Parks, Wildlife Areas and
Special Bayshore Stops!*



Frontlines



I WELCOME YOU TO DNREC's second annual, special issue of *Outdoor Delaware*, "50 Ways to Escape the Ordinary." Inside, you will find a list of 50 ways to have fun, discover, and explore all that DNREC has to offer this summer for adventures outside. To help guide you along, we also feature a four-page section with handy maps of our state parks, wildlife areas, and Bayshore Discovery Zones, to point you to your outdoor journeys. These adventures are available on DNREC property, in DNREC-funded areas, or on land in the Bayshore Byway, a DNREC-supported initiative.

Being exposed to the beauty and harmony of the natural world instills in children a connection that lasts a lifetime. The well-known author of *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv, has written of the interdependent relationship between young people and the natural environment that can only be nurtured through interaction with nature. They are also exposed to nature, instilling a reverence and respect for our natural world. This helps ensure a legacy of care and protection of the environment for generations to come.

While getting outside is fun for all ages, it is especially important for children. Studies indicate that more than a third of



Delaware's children are overweight or obese, and the consequences of that are most concerning. Not only are obesity-related illnesses among children on an alarming rise, but our young people are also losing touch with the natural world. This disconnect could have serious consequences for the future of our children's health and our environment.

This edition of *Outdoor Delaware* provides 50 ways to get children – and adults – outside to enjoy all the activities DNREC offers this summer. Whether it is on a zipline or on horseback, participating in a challenging contest, or playing at a water park or playground, there are dozens of choices to make an outdoor adventure healthy and fun. I hope this issue will make choosing an outdoor activity easier, which ultimately will lead to enjoying the gifts of nature for you and your children.

SHAWN M. GARVIN, SECRETARY



Outdoor Delaware

~ ° ¸ " | V . . . M E 2 8 | I S S U E ~

STATE OF DELAWARE

GOVERNOR

John Carney

DNREC SECRETARY

Shawn M. Garvin

CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Carol Anders Riggs

MAGAZINE STAFF

EDITOR

Beth Shockley

DESIGN

Stewart Andrews

CIRCULATION

Matthew Cardona

PRINTING

McClafferty Printing Company
Wilmington, Delaware



Find Us on Facebook
Search *Outdoor Delaware*

Outdoor Delaware magazine is published quarterly by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901. Subscriptions are \$8 for one year. Due to nonprofit status, refunds cannot be made. Subscribers may transfer unexpired subscriptions to another party of their choice. *Outdoor Delaware* welcomes photographs and articles but will not be responsible for loss or damage; return postage must be provided. Permission granted to reprint with proper credit. Telephone: Editor's Office (302) 739-9902; subscription information, (302) 739-9902. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workplace.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Outdoor Delaware*, DNREC, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901. Second class postage is paid at Dover, DE with additional mailing offices.

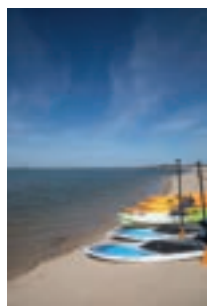
(ISSN 0045-9852) Document number: 40-01-05/1/19/1
USPS #151-880.



Outdoor Delaware is the flagship, award-winning conservation magazine of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.



Printed on recycled paper



On the Cover:

Cape Henlopen State Park kayakers
©2019 by April Abel

On the back cover:

Fenwick Dawn
©2019 by April Abel

50 WAYS TO

Escape the Ordinary

at DNREC State Parks & Wildlife Areas

Table of Contents

4 5 Active Activities - Get Movin' this Summer
by Abby Shepard

7 5 Sounds of Summer - Music to Your Ears
by Sharon Smith

10 5 Guided Tours - From Pontoon Boats to Truckin' at Fort Miles!
by Abby Shepard

13 5 Adventures for the Kids
by Sharon Smith

16 5 Camping Experiences You'll Remember
by Abby Shepard

Special Pullout Map Section: Find Parks, Wildlife Areas and Special Bayshore Stops!

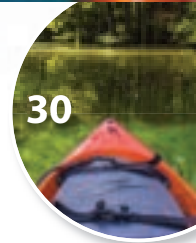
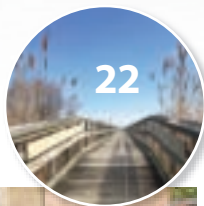
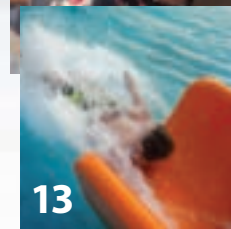
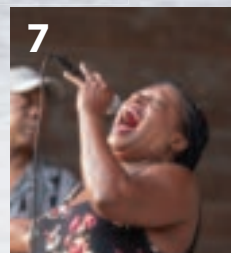
19 5 Bayshore Discovery Zones
by Anthony Gonzon

22 5 Boardwalks to Stroll or Bike
by Carol Anders Riggs, Anthony Gonzon & Sharon Smith

25 5 Challenging Contests to Try
by Phil Miller, Abby Shepard & Jennifer Childears

27 5 Fascinating Nature Centers You Should See
by Sharon Smith, Lynne Pusey & Maggie Pletta

30 5 Places to Rent Boats
by Sharon Smith



5 Active Activities

by Abby Shepard

Get Movin' this Summer

Go Ape Zip Line & Treetop Adventure

1 Zip through the trees and see Lums Pond State Park from a new perspective on the Go Ape Zip Line & Treetop Adventure course. Go Ape's Treetop Adventure Course and Treetop Junior Course offer visitors a full and immersive outdoor adventure experience. Navigate the treetops while experiencing over-water crossings, obstacles, and amazing views. With the Treetop Junior Course, the entire family can experience a fun and thrilling outdoor adventure together. After your ziplining experience, make a day of it, and explore all that Lums Pond State Park has to offer. Bring a picnic lunch, take a hike around the pond's edge, or rent a kayak to paddle around the pond. The Go Ape course at Lums Pond State Park is typically open through December. We recommend using the online booking system to check availability by month, day and time. Booking ahead is also recommended. For more information and to book your adventure, visit <https://destateparks.com/GoPlay/GoApe>.



Biking

2 Grab your bike and hit the trail! DNREC's Delaware State Parks feature 150+ miles of trails throughout the state, many of which are bike-friendly. Pedal the bike loop at Cape Henlopen State Park, which takes you to seaside vistas, or try the Northern Greenway trail that spans all of northern New Castle County. Cape Henlopen State Park offers free bike rentals, which is made possible through the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park. You can search for bike trails on the Delaware State Parks Trail Finder at <https://destate-parks.com/Trails>. You can also search for bike trails using the state of Delaware's Play Outside web app. Visit <https://maps.dnrec.delaware.gov/playoutside/> and search for bike trails. The Play Outside app is unique because it will display all trails in any park throughout the state.



Disc Golf

3 Have you ever strolled through one of Delaware's state parks and noticed a metal basket? Those baskets are used for disc golf – a fun, easy-to-play sport that the whole family can enjoy. The objective of the game is to throw the disc in the chain basket located on a pole. The number of throws to land the disc in the basket is the score for the hole. The sport dates back to the 1970s, and has been growing in popularity ever since. DNREC's Delaware State Parks offer seven disc golf courses throughout the state: Bellevue, Brandywine Creek, Cape Henlopen, Killens Pond, Lums Pond, Trap Pond, and White Clay Creek state parks. You can play disc golf beside the beach, or beneath a forest canopy. Young or old, beginner or expert, this exciting sport is waiting for you! Learn more and download maps and score cards at: <https://www.destateparks.com/Adventures/DiscGolf>.



Golf

4 Did you know that DNREC's Delaware State Parks include two golf courses? Deerfield, located within White Clay Creek State Park in Newark, is a public, 145-acre haven for golfers throughout the region. The course boasts 18 holes across dramatic elevation changes, and superb conditioning. Four sets of tees enable visitors of all experience levels to enjoy the course. After completing your golf game, stop in the pro shop to buy some new gear, or grab a bite to eat at The Pub and Grille. The second golfing option is Garrisons Lake Golf Course. It is also beautiful as well as historic, and is conveniently located just south of Smyrna. Featuring tree-lined fairways and large, well-bunkered, undulating greens, this course offers a fair challenge for players of all abilities. For decades, the Garrisons course has been an area favorite for high-quality, affordable public golf. For more information on both, visit <https://destateparks.com/Adventures/Golf>.



Horseback Riding

5 Go horseback riding in the great outdoors! DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation offers two equestrian facilities: Wellspring Farm at Bellevue State Park, and Sunset Stables at Lums Pond State Park. These centers provide riding lessons, trail rides, camps, and more. If you own your own horse, you can go riding on the trails and beaches throughout the parks. You can take a ride on the beaches at Cape Henlopen and Delaware Seashore State Parks, or through the forests at Lums Pond State Park. The Little Jersey Trail at Lums Pond State Park is a shared-use trail designated for hiking, biking and horseback riding. The campground at Lums Pond State Park even has four horse campsites, where riders can enjoy a getaway without the need for daily trailering! For more information, visit <https://destateparks.com/PondsRivers/LumsPond>, or <https://wellspringfarm.us.com/>, or call 302-739-9200.



5 Sounds of Summer

by Sharon Smith

Music to Your Ears

Bellevue State Park

1 If you love music, Bellevue State Park is the place to be on Sundays and Thursdays in the summer. The backdrop is one of Delaware's most intriguing former duPont estates. Bellevue Hall is fashioned after Monticello in Virginia, where one of its former residents just happened to live. The park offers lush greenery and panoramic views of the Delaware River. Add free concerts into the mix, featuring artists that cover everything from country to reggae, and you have yourself a perfect summer evening. Concerts begin at 6:30 p.m., except June 30 and Aug. 25, when they start at 6 p.m. The only cost to you is the price of the park entrance fee. For more information, visit www.destateparks.com/Concerts.



Killens Pond State Park

2 After a day of swimming at Killens Water Park or canoeing on Killens Pond in Felton, rest on your blanket and enjoy performances by artists covering classic tunes and contemporary favorites. The concerts are free and are perfect for families, so forget the babysitter. Bring your folding chairs and glow sticks, and enjoy a family-fun ylled evening outdoors. The concert series at Killens Ponds is held on Fridays in June through August. Killens Pond State Park is one of the best places to catch live music in Kent County. While the concerts are free, concert-goers still need to pay the park entrance fee. For more information, visit www.destateparks.com/Concerts.



Trap Pond State Park

3 For music lovers, few things are better than sitting back on a summer evening and enjoying live music outdoors, and the venues don't get much better than Trap Pond State Park in Laurel. The park is remote and rustic, and home to the nation's northernmost stand of naturally occurring baldcypress trees. Each summer, visitors can enjoy the park's beauty while enjoying performances. Whether you like the blues, country, or Christian, the summer concert series at Trap Pond State Park has a treat in store for you. The series is held every Saturday through the first week of September. The free concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. Concert-goers need only bring a blanket or some lawn chairs, and their love of the outdoors. Unless you are a season pass holder, you will need to pay the park's entrance fees. Entrance fee is \$5 for Delaware residents and \$8 for out-of-state residents. For more information, visit www.destateparks.com/Concerts.



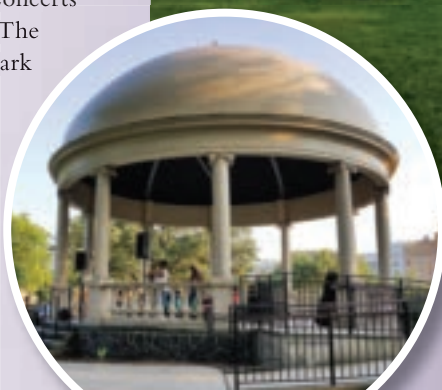
White Clay Creek State Park

4 Escape the hustle and bustle of urban life and enjoy one of the most beautiful spots in Northern Delaware, White Clay Creek State Park in Newark. The summer concert series there is free and fantastic! Concerts are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning in June and ending in August. A special concert is held over Labor Day weekend. Pack a picnic, grab a blanket and enjoy a romantic evening under the stars listening to performers play everything from jazz to rock. The only cost to you is the park entrance fee. For more information, visit www.destateparks.com/Concerts.



Wilmington State Parks

5 Why leave the city when you don't have to? Wilmington State Parks have everything a music lover could want or need to get into the groove of summer. Rockford Park in Wilmington offers free summer concerts on Mondays starting in June, and ending in August. Rock, indie folk and Americana music all take center-stage at one of DNREC's Delaware State Parks' most popular series. Over at Brandywine Park, bands playing everything from reggae to bluegrass will make you feel like you have gone to the Caribbean or Nashville without ever having to leave Wilmington. Concerts at both parks start at 6:30 p.m. The concerts at Brandywine State Park are held on Wednesdays. Pack a picnic, and you are set for an enjoyable summer evening. Enjoy! For more details, visit www.destateparks.com/Concerts.





5 Guided Tours

by Abby Shepard

From Pontoon Boats to Truckin' at Fort Miles!

Fort Delaware State Park

1 Built in 1859, Fort Delaware served as a Civil War prison which held close to 33,000 Confederate POWs during the Civil War. The Fort was also active during the Spanish-American War, WWI and WWII. Today, you can board the ferry to Pea Patch Island and travel back in time to the summer of 1864 when the fort served as a Civil War prison. Tour the parade ground, officers' quarters, barracks, kitchen, blacksmith shop, and ordnance room. Hear stories of great escapes, and watch as the Fort's Columbiad cannon fires a gunpowder charge! Engage with fort historians dressed in period clothing, and hear stories of those who lived at the fort in 1864. Access to Pea Patch Island and Fort Delaware is by ferry only. The ticket office and ferry dock are located at 45 Clinton Street in Delaware City. For more information, visit www.destateparks.com/History/FortDelaware.



Truckin' Through History

2 Fort Miles, located in Cape Henlopen State Park, was a key part of the nation's coastal defense during and after World War II. Experience the historic site from a new perspective and join us for "Truckin' Through History." Visitors tour the park in a historic deuce-and-a-half military truck and explore some of the lesser-known remains of Fort Miles. "Truckin' Through History" is offered on Saturday, June 22, and Saturdays July 6 and 20, at 6p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The program is also offered on Saturdays, Aug. 3, 17 and 31 at 4:30 and 6 p.m. Tours meet at the Biden Center, and tickets go on sale at the Fort Miles Orientation Building each Saturday morning on a first-come, first-served basis. For ages 7 and up with a paying adult. There is a maximum of four tickets per group. Limit 12 per ride. Tickets cost \$8 per person. For more information visit www.destateparks.com/History/FortMiles, or call 302-644-5007.



Trap Pond Pontoon Boat Tours

3 Trap Pond State Park, located in Laurel, is home to the northernmost stand of bald cypress trees on the East Coast. What better way to experience the unique baldcypress swamps than from a leisurely tour on a pontoon boat? Trap Pond offers a variety of tours throughout the summer, including an evening pontoon boat tour, the "Wildlife from the Water," and "Boating through History" pontoon tours. Explore the pond and search for wildlife, learn about history, or just take in the stunning views. For more information, call 302-875-5163.



"Steamin' Days" at Auburn Valley State Park

4 Auburn Valley State Park, Delaware's newest state park, is nestled in the Piedmont's Red Clay Valley in Yorklyn. At this unique park, you'll discover the story of the Marshall Family, Yorklyn's rich industrial history, and revitalization of the area. On the First Sunday of every month from June through November, Auburn Valley State Park hosts "Steamin' Days," when the park truly comes alive. Visitors are encouraged to climb into an antique automobile or board one of the trains, and experience what it was like to travel at the turn of the 20th century. You can also take a ride on the 1/8-size Auburn Valley Railroad, ride in an antique Stanley Steam Car, tour the 1897 Victorian Mansion, and visit the Marshall Steam Museum. There is something for everyone at Auburn Valley State Park, no matter how old you are. Ride tickets are \$11 per adult age 13 and above, and \$8 per child under 13. For more information, visit www.auburnheights.org or call 302-239-2385.



Lantern Tours at First State Heritage Park

5 Take a stroll through Dover's history by lantern light! First State Heritage Park, located in downtown Dover, offers lantern tours on Friday evenings throughout the summer. Join historical interpreters dressed in colonial attire as they tell true stories of historic Dover. A variety of different tours are available, including visits to the Green, and church cemetery tours. The churchyard tours are made possible with the cooperation of the Presbyterian Church of Dover, Christ Episcopal Church and Wesley United Methodist Church. Tours begin at 8:30 p.m. July 19 and 26, and at 8 p.m. Aug. 2, 9, 16, and 23, and continue through the fall season. For more information visit www.destateparks.com/heritagepark. Admission to all lantern tours is \$10. Space is limited; call 302-739-9194 to reserve your lantern.

5 Adventures for the Kids

by Sharon Smith

Killens Pond State Park Water Park

1 You don't have to go far or spend a fortune to cool off this summer. You need look no further than beautiful Killens Pond State Park in Felton. In addition to gorgeous trails, it's home to one of the best deals in Delaware: Killens Pond Water Park. On weekends, admission to the park for individuals under 48-inches is just \$8, and \$10 for anyone over 48 inches tall. During the week, the price is \$6 and \$8 respectively. That's one sweet deal. The park offers amazing water slides that tweens, teens, and adults will love. The younger kids will enjoy splashing under the cascades of water from the towering mushrooms, or they can test their agility on the lily pad obstacle course. The smaller set can enjoy the two frog slides in the baby pool, or the pipe waterfall at the Tot Lot. Bring your love of the water, your appetite and, of course, sunscreen. The park serves up tasty hamburgers, hot dogs and other poolside snacks. Come early because the park fills up quickly.



The Can-Do Playground

2 Inside Alapocas Run State Park, just outside of Wilmington, is one of the state's first boundless playgrounds, the Can-Do Playground. Children of all abilities will find something to love at this fun playground. The Can-Do Playground offers ramps, slides, swings, interactive equipment and sand. Perhaps, most importantly, it allows children with and without disabilities the opportunity to play together and learn from each other. Since the Can-Do Playground opened in 2007, several other ADA-accessible playgrounds have also been built in Delaware, including Preston's Playground in Newark. The Can-Do Playground has served as a role model for inclusive playgrounds throughout the First State.



Holts Landing Playground

3 Holts Landing State Park in Ocean View is one of Delaware's best-kept secrets. It is remote, rugged and offers beautiful views of the Indian River Bay. Holts Landing is also one of the best spots for crabbing and fishing in Sussex County. Anglers can hook black sea bass, summer flounder and striped bass. Kids can take a break from fishing and enjoy the newly-installed playground. It offers slides and challenges such as "three-in-a-row" and a frog puzzle. Perhaps the coolest features are the sound exhibits on the equipment. Children can crank the dial to power the exhibit. When they have given the dial enough energy, they will hear a ding. Then, they can press a button to learn about different water sounds or the sounds animals in the wild make.



Goats at the Brandywine Zoo

4 You don't need to find a farm to get up-close and personal with goats. You just need to visit the Brandywine Zoo in Wilmington with your children. The zoo is in the process of changing things up in a big way, and part of these changes is the new interactive goat contact area. Construction crews worked hard this winter, transforming the former otter exhibit into an interactive area where goats, children

and adults can play and relax together. The new exhibit features goats from around the world, including African pygmy, Nubian, and Nigerian dwarf goats. Visitors can learn how goats have provided milk and fibers to humans over the centuries. Come discover why these friendly animals were domesticated approximately 7,000 to 10,000 years ago.



Delaware Seashore State Park

5 Find out why visitors come back to the guarded beaches at Delaware Seashore State Park year after year. The park has three guarded beaches: the South Inlet Day Area, Tower Ocean and Fenwick Island. Children will love building sand castles on the beach and jumping into the waves. Parents will love the fact that there are lifeguards on hand to make sure everyone stays safe. If you need a break from the water, you can always walk under the Indian River Bridge and head over to the South Inlet campground, where a new playground is located. It includes everything a child could want: spectacular views of the Indian River Bridge, monkey bars, slides, swings, and even a xylophone for budding musicians. The playground also boasts webbing just in case the kids want to get a taste of what it's like to be Spiderman!



5 Camping Experiences You'll Remember

by Abby Shepard



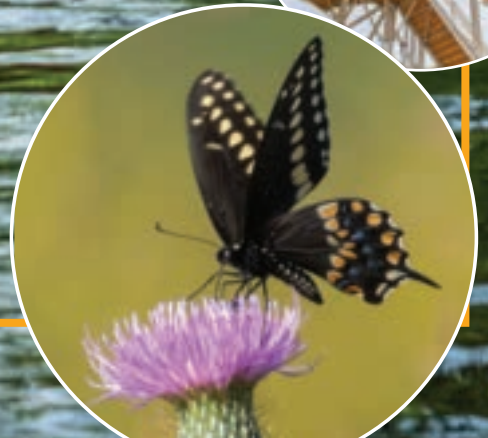
Tents

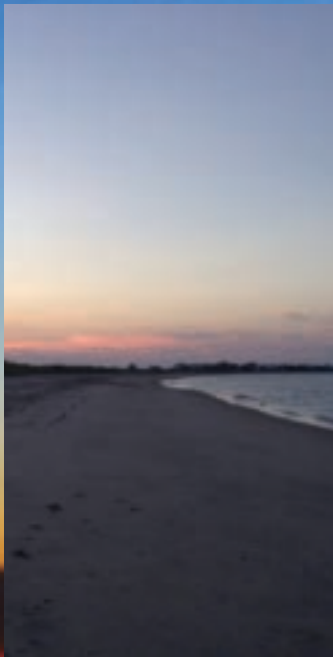
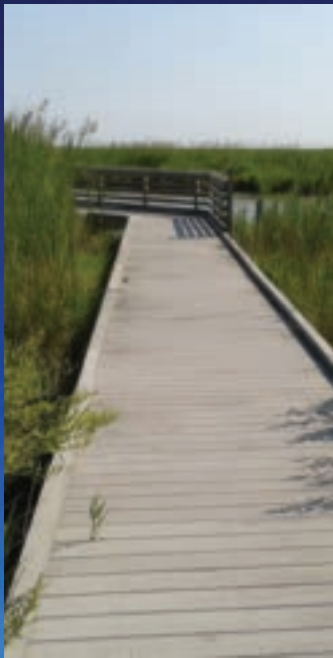
1 Camp under the stars and get close to nature by reserving a tent site at DNREC's Delaware State Parks. Five beautiful campgrounds await your visit at Cape Henlopen, Delaware Seashore, Killens Pond, Lums Pond and Trap Pond state parks. Each campground features a unique camping experience. Pitch a tent at a secluded island site at Trap Pond State Park, or set up camp just steps away from sandy beaches at Delaware Seashore or Cape Henlopen state parks. Many campgrounds also offer free and fun parks interpretive programs.



Find Your Summer Adventure!

*Handy Pullout with Maps of State Parks,
Wildlife Areas & Bayshore Stops!*



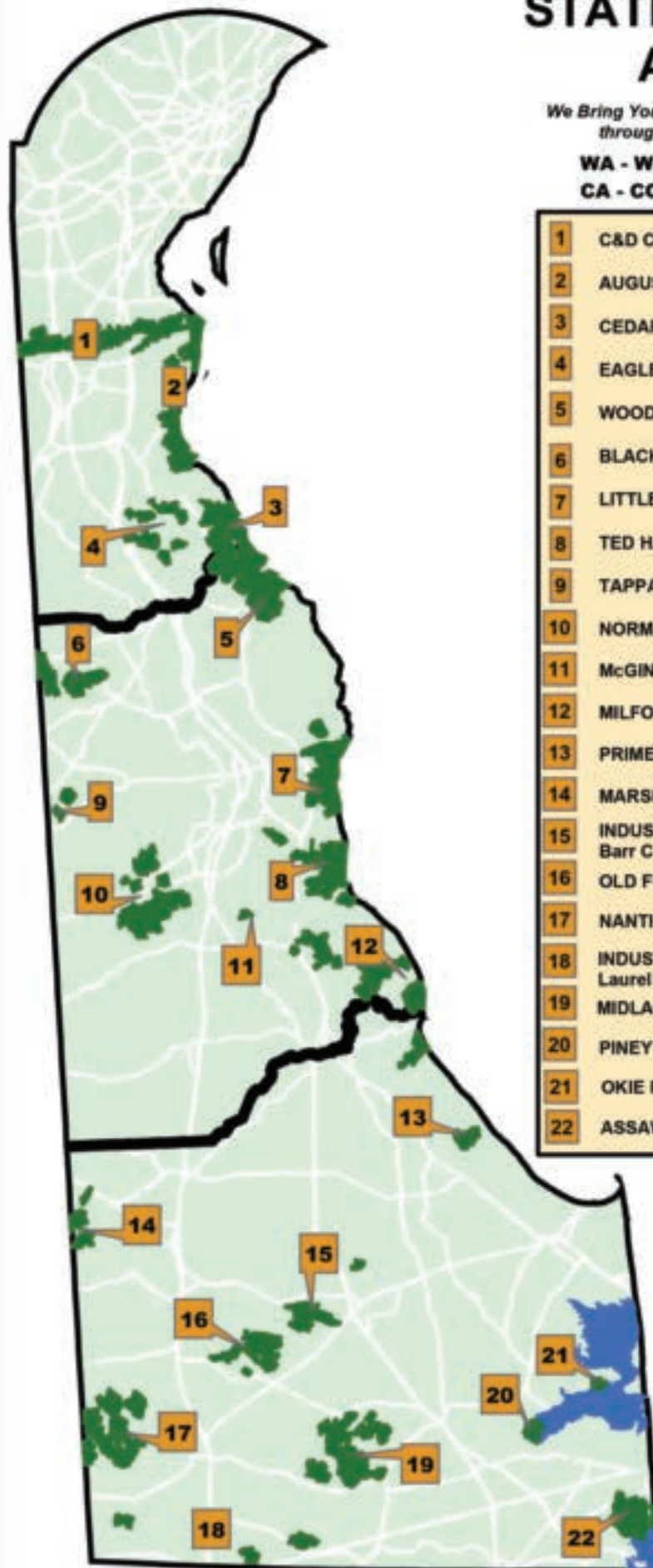


STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

We Bring You Delaware's Great Outdoors through Science and Service

WA - WILDLIFE AREA

CA - CONSERVATION AREA



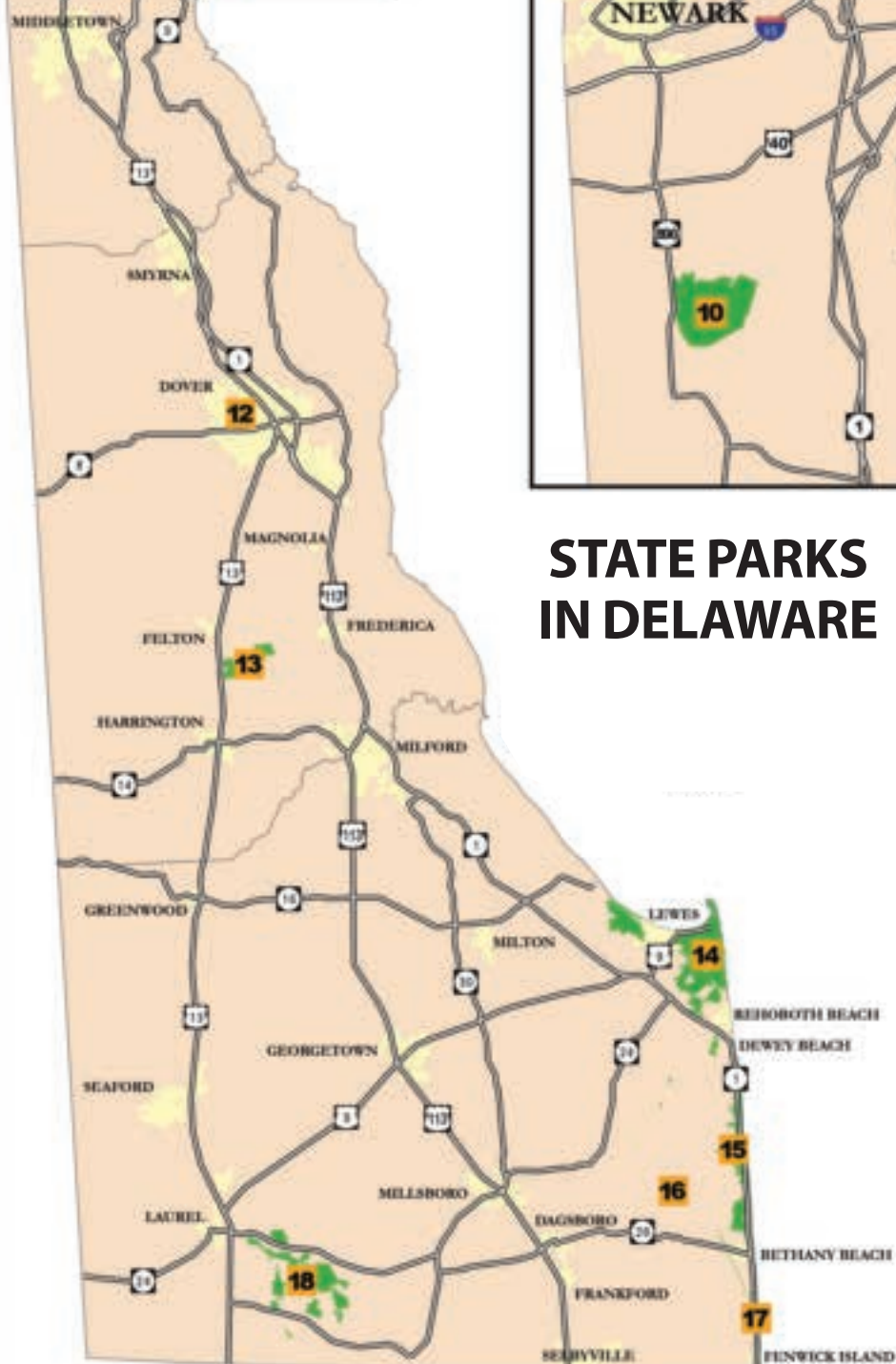
- 1 C&D CANAL CA
- 2 AUGUSTINE WA
- 3 CEDAR SWAMP WA
- 4 EAGLES NEST WA
- 5 WOODLAND BEACH WA
- 6 BLACKISTON WA
- 7 LITTLE CREEK WA
- 8 TED HARVEY CA
- 9 TAPPAHANNA WA
- 10 NORMAN G. WILDER WA
- 11 MCGINNIS POND WA
- 12 MILFORD NECK WA
- 13 PRIME HOOK WA
- 14 MARSHY HOPE WA
- 15 INDUSTRIAL FOREST LANDS
Barr Complex
- 16 OLD FURNACE WA
- 17 NANTICOKE WA
- 18 INDUSTRIAL FOREST LANDS
Laurel Complex
- 19 MIDLANDS WA
- 20 PINEY POINT
- 21 OKIE PRESERVE
- 22 ASSAWOMAN WA





STATE PARKS IN DELAWARE

- 1** Auburn Valley State Park
- 2** Brandywine Creek State Park
- 3** Alapocas Run State Park
- 4** Wilmington State Parks/
Brandywine Zoo
- 5** Bellevue State Park
- 6** Fox Point State Park
- 7** White Clay Creek State Park
- 8** Fort Delaware State Park
- 9** Fort DuPont State Park
- 10** Lums Pond State Park
- 11** Port Penn Interpretive Center
- 12** First State Heritage Park
- 13** Killens Pond State Park
- 14** Cape Henlopen State Park
- 15** Delaware Seashore State Park/
Indian River Marina/
Indian River Life-Saving Station
- 16** Holts Landing State Park
- 17** Fenwick Island State Park
- 18** Trap Pond State Park





DISCOVER THE DELAWARE BAYSHORE

- 1** Delaware City, Fort Delaware, Pea Patch Heronry & Augustine Wildlife Area
- 2** Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and Leipsic
- 3** Pickering Beach, Dickinson Plantation and St. Jones Reserve
- 4** Milford Neck Wildlife Area and Slaughter Beach
- 5** Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Broadkill Beach & Beach Plum Island



Delaware
Bayshore
Region



The Delaware
Bayshore
Byway



Lewes Scenic
and Historic
Byway

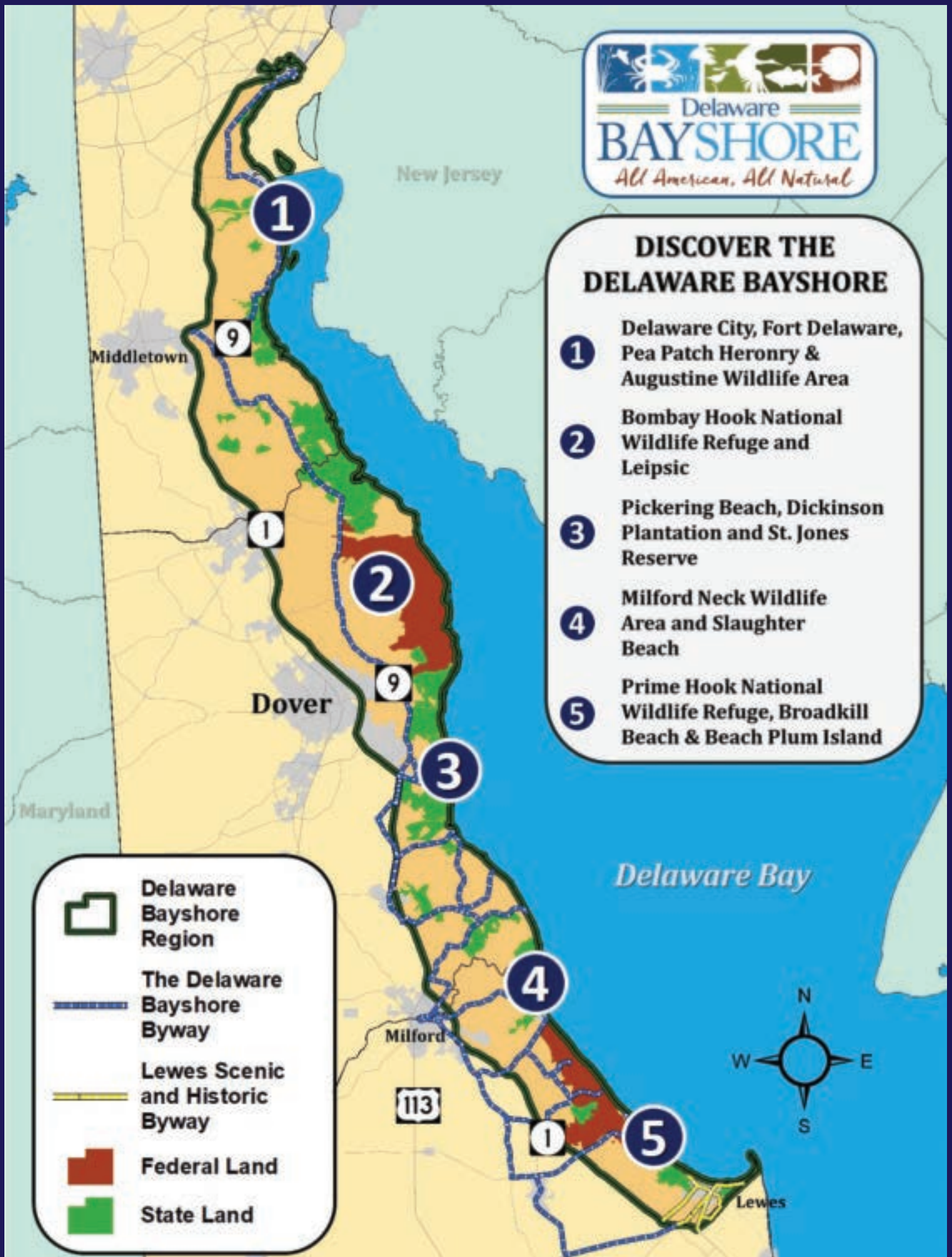


Federal Land



State Land

Delaware Bay





Cottages

2 Spend your vacation in the beautiful waterfront cottages at the Indian River Inlet in Delaware Seashore State Park. Each fully-furnished cottage sleeps six, and features two bedrooms, a loft with a queen-sized bed, a well-equipped kitchen, gas fireplace, heating/AC, and a screened-in porch. Delaware Seashore State Park is one of the mid-Atlantic region's most popular recreational destinations, with a wealth of natural settings, and six miles of ocean and bay shoreline. During your stay, enjoy swimming, surf-and deep-sea fishing, surfing, sailing, paddling, hiking, bird-watching, and much more. The cottages are adjacent to the Indian River Marina and close to resorts, restaurants, tax-free shopping outlets, historic sites and park amenities. Learn more and book your stay at <https://www.destateparks.com/Reservations/Cottages>.

Yurts

3 Have you ever stayed in a yurt? Try camping in one at Lums Pond or Trap Pond state parks. Yurts are round, stationary structures with canvas walls. The yurts at Lums Pond and Trap Pond state parks feature a single and double bed bunks together, a double bed-sized futon, and outdoor seating and deck areas. Up to five people can stay in a yurt, and they are available year-round. During your stay, check out all that the parks have to offer. At Trap Pond State Park, spend the day hiking, biking, and fishing, or enjoy a relaxing pontoon tour of the pond. Take out a kayak or canoe, and paddle along the ancient baldcypress swamp to discover native birds, turtles, wildflowers and other species.

Lums Pond, Delaware's largest pond, and the diverse habitats conserved beyond its shoreline, creates a setting for a variety of recreational activities. Kayak through the pond's sparkling waters, hike through more than 12 miles of trails, fish from the water's edge, or take your dog to enjoy the off-leash dog park. Visit the nature center to meet some local animals and sign-up for one of our year-round interpretive programs. See the park from a new perspective, and take your spirit of adventure to the next level on the Go Ape Zip Line & Treetop Adventure. This exciting course navigates through the hardwood forest, and even across the pond using high ropes. There is so much to explore when you stay in a yurt. For more information about yurts and to book your stay, visit <https://www.destateparks.com/Reservations/Yurts>.



RV Campgrounds

4 If you have an RV, set up your camp at one of DNREC's Delaware State Parks RV campgrounds. There are five to choose from: Cape Henlopen, Delaware Seashore, Killens Pond, Lums Pond, and Trap Pond state parks. All five campgrounds have electric and water hook-ups. The newly renovated campground at Cape Henlopen State Park offers water, 50-amp electric hook-ups, new fire rings and picnic tables, a new and improved vehicle circulation pattern, camp store, laundry facility, pull-through sites, a play area, and more. At Delaware Seashore State Park, you can set up camp beside the iconic Indian River Inlet Bridge, only a short walk from the beach and two onsite restaurants. To meet the needs of RV campers, 50-amp service is provided at most campsites and dump stations are available at Cape Henlopen, Trap Pond, and Killens Pond state parks. For more information and to book your stay, visit: <https://destateparks.com/Reservations/RVandTentCamping>.



Cabins

5 No RV? No problem! Find family-style and rustic cabins at Cape Henlopen, Killens Pond, and Trap Pond state parks. The cabins at Cape Henlopen State Park sleep six, with real beds in both bedrooms. After spending a day at one of the finest beaches on the East Coast, you'll love spending your evenings in your own oversized, screened-in dining porch – the perfect spot for relaxed meals and family card games. The family cabins at Killens Pond State Park sleep four and feature an efficiency kitchen with an eating area, bedroom, bath with shower, A/C and heat. One cabin at Killens Pond even allows pets! The rustic two-room camping cabins at Trap Pond State Park have scenic locations next to the water. Enter the cabin at the screened-in porch and move inside to the living area with table, benches and chairs. The bedroom has a double bed and bunk beds to sleep four adults. The units have A/C and heat for three-season comfort, and offer a great camping experience with protection from the weather. Rates and seasons vary. For more information and to book your stay, visit <https://destateparks.com/Reservations/Cabins>.





5 Bayshore Discovery Zones

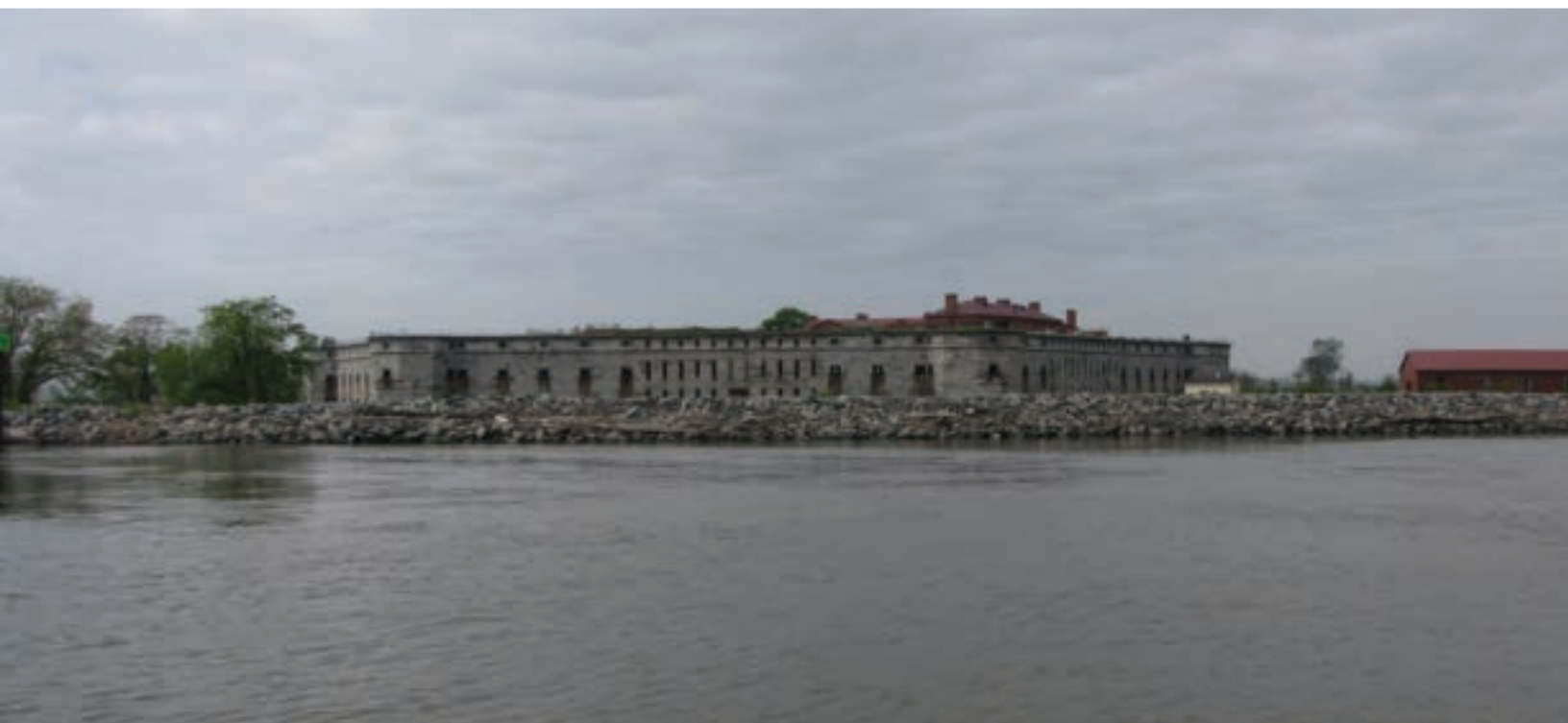
by Anthony Gonzon

Discovery Area #1 – Delaware City, Fort Delaware, Pea Patch Heronry and Augustine Wildlife Area

1 Delaware City is steeped in history, culture and nature, boasting one of Delaware's largest historic districts, a spectacular promenade along the Delaware River, a marina, specialty shops, restaurants, parks, and recreational areas.

Fort Delaware State Park, located on Pea Patch Island, served as a prison camp for thousands of Confederate soldiers captured during the Civil War. The fort comes to life each summer with Civil War reenactments, interpretive tours and artillery demonstrations. Pea Patch Island's wild northern end is one of the largest mixed rookeries of herons and egrets on the East Coast. Hike a loop trail that travels through a wooded area and view wildlife and wading birds from the observation tower.

Just south of the Reedy Point Bridge, stop at the Thousand Acre Marsh and enjoy the spectacular views, amazing bird-watching and great hiking at the Ashton Tract in the Augustine Wildlife Area, then pop over to the Port Penn Tract just to the south to check out the new observation deck that provides excellent views of the river.



Discovery Area #2 – Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and Leipsic

2 Bombay Hook is coastal gem, known for its vast expanse of tidal salt marsh. It is home to many species of conservation concern, such as American black ducks, black-necked stilts and bald eagles. The refuge is teeming with animal life. Take a 12-mile wildlife drive and discover deer, red foxes and beaver. Walk one of the five trails – two are wheelchair-accessible – to see turtles, butterflies and frogs up-close and personal. Three observation towers offer magnificent views and great photo opportunities of migrating birds and wildlife. Stop by the Visitor Center for public restrooms and to view interpretative nature displays and info on nature programs and hunting opportunities.

After wrapping up at the refuge, head down to Leipsic and witness a working waterfront in action. Local crabbers return daily with their catch and the local fare relies heavily on these watermen and women. The community's rich agriculture and maritime history come to life as you stroll through this quaint village along the Bayshore.



Discovery Area #3 – Pickering Beach and the Dickinson Plantation

3 At the southern end of Route 9, cruise over to Pickering Beach and check out one of the Bayshore's most quiet beach communities. Just 10 minutes from Dover, Pickering Beach is a great place for a relaxing day trip; a place for making memories and peaceful walks by the water. With easy parking near the beach access, Pickering Beach is a special place that allows you to get off the grid for a short time.

The John Dickinson Plantation is the historic home of one of the founding fathers of the United States and "Penman of the Revolution." The plantation features Dickinson's original 1740 brick home, reconstructed farm buildings, and a log dwelling surrounded by rich agricultural lands stretching down to the banks of the St. Jones River. Tours by historic interpreters depict colonial life during John Dickinson's era.





Discovery Area #4 – Milford Neck Wildlife Area and Slaughter Beach

4 Milford Neck Wildlife Area is a patchwork of open spaces – beaches and dunes, tidal marshlands, freshwater wetlands, swamp, upland forests, and farmland. The area is a haven for birdwatchers, waterfowl hunters and photographers, and includes a 350-acre open space for training hunting dogs. Walk along a secluded stretch of Big Stone Beach or cast your fishing line off Bennett's Pier Beach.

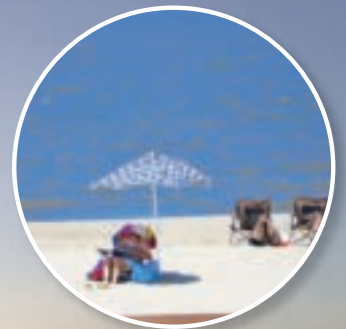
Slaughter Beach is an incorporated town located east of Route 1, just a short ride south of Milford. The town maintains a centrally-located public pavilion with ample parking and restroom facilities. North of town is the DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife's Cedar Creek Boating Access Area and, at the mouth of the Mispillion Inlet, the DuPont Nature Center. Within town is the Delaware Nature Society's Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve, home to a new boardwalk and overlook. These facilities offer a multitude of environmental interactive learning opportunities for the public, especially schoolchildren. At the south end, back roads lead to uninhabited Fowler Beach, within Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, and provide a terrific "nature ride" for bicycling enthusiasts. The offshore anchorage hosts large tankers awaiting the Delaware River pilots who guide them to the ports of Wilmington and Philadelphia.

Discovery Area #5 – Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Broadkill Beach and Beach Plum Island

5 Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge is a mix of fresh and saltwater wetlands stretching from Slaughter Beach to the Broadkill River. The refuge provides habitat for many species – including piping plovers and the Delmarva fox squirrel. Fishing in Prime Hook Creek and at Turtle and Fleetwood ponds is great fun for the entire family. Hike through fields, forests and marsh, including the half-mile wheelchair-accessible Boardwalk Trail, and an observation platform on the Dike Trail.

Stop in at Broadkill Beach, but get there early if you want a good spot! Parking is at the end of Route 16 where beach access is provided to the public. You will find plenty of space here to catch some sun, read a book or just enjoy a sandy beach without the excitement of the Atlantic Ocean beaches. This quiet community is worth the drive to get away from the busy highway and relax.

Travel south down Bayshore Drive to Beach Plum Island. This narrow Bayshore beach is open to permitted surf fishing vehicles and provides a great location to cast a line. Keep an eye out for osprey fishing along the shoreline, or search for beach glass and shells along the shore. Just north of historic Lewes, Beach Plum Island also boasts the only stretch of wild beach in Delaware – its southern half is closed to public access but can still be appreciated for its natural, unaltered state.





5 Boardwalks to Stroll or Bike

by Carol Anders Riggs,
Anthony Gonzon &
Sharon Smith

Aquatic Resources Education Center

1 Located along Route 9 east of Smyrna, discover the boardwalk trail at the DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife's Aquatic Resources Education Center (AREC), and be prepared to be wowed by the beauty of nature. AREC's boardwalk trail offers a prime venue for exploring the Delaware Bay coastal ecosystem and the abundant wildlife it supports. The trail, and 940-foot tidal marsh boardwalk loop, is wheelchair-accessible, and features a raised observation deck, sitting area with benches, and a marsh-level platform. Along the boardwalk, listen for the clapper rail, and look for fiddler crabs feeding on the mud banks at low tide. Scan for signs of other wildlife along the way – you won't be disappointed. Follow the gravel path that leads from the boardwalk out to Lighthouse Road, or follow it back across Route 9 and take the history trail to the AREC.



Milford's Mispillion Riverwalk

2 A one-of-its-kind boardwalk/path threads its way along the Mispillion River through downtown Milford, and along with the adjoining land, can claim the fame of being the largest municipal park in Delaware. The river's edge was once home to seven shipyards that produced more than 600 ships from 1680 to 1927. The Mispillion Riverwalk, as it is known, is inviting to residents and town visitors any time of year, but especially during town events such as the Riverwalk Freedom Festival, the Ladybug Music Festival, the Bug & Bud Festival and the Riverwalk Farmers Market every Saturday from May – October. With the addition of the nine-acre Goat Island Nature Park in 2014, featuring nature-related educational signs, the trail has a little something for everyone. Although it's not on DNREC property, funding from the agency has helped make this downtown attraction a reality.



Burton Island

3 The 1.3-mile loop trail around Burton Island, in Delaware Seashore State Park, provides the experience of being in the middle of a tidal salt marsh without getting your feet wet. The amazingly long boardwalk (totaling 740 feet) rests just above the marsh grass. Here, you can experience what a heron or an egret might, as it stands in the middle of the swaying grasses awash with brine and teeming with small crabs and other critters. The feel, the sights, and the sounds make for a very special experience. After traversing the boardwalk, visitors will feel as though they have discovered their own personal island, as the natural beauty of the 205-acre island unfolds. It is the perfect place to snap photos of migratory birds that rest there.

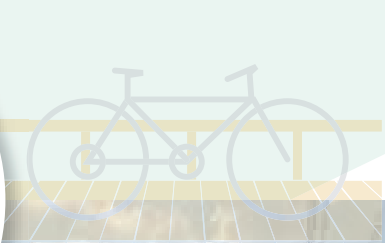
The island is best visited in seasons other than summer because of the bugs, but, put it on your list for hiking during fall, winter or spring. This secluded island can be a little tricky to get to – it is accessible just north of the storage buildings at Indian River Marina. A map of the location can be downloaded at <https://www.destateparks.com/wwwroot/maps/trails/DelawareSeashore.pdf>.



Jack A. Markell Trail

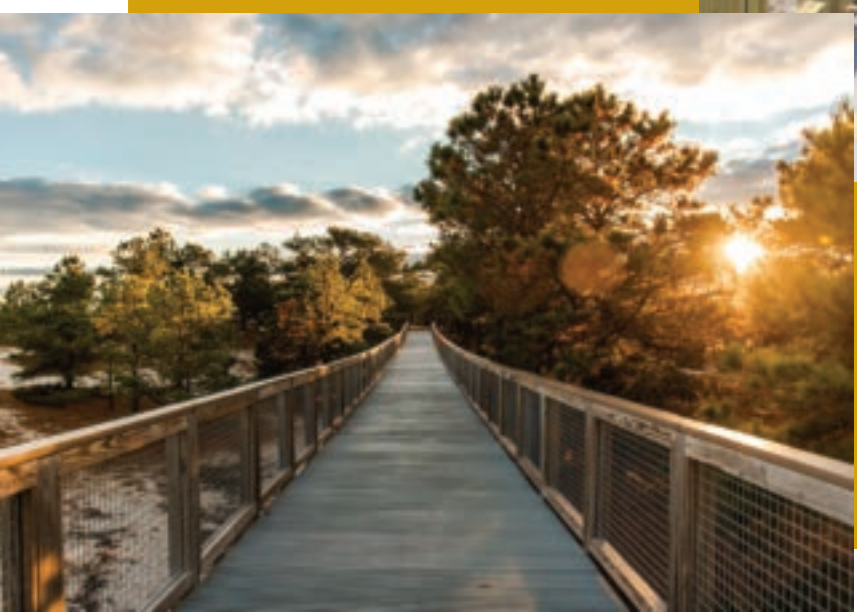
4 One of the most amazing trails in Delaware, the Jack A. Markell Trail, which opened in the fall of 2018, boasts an elevated 2,300 foot-long boardwalk above the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge. Along with the boardwalk, connecting paved pathways and a 300-foot bridge across the Christiana River, the complete trail runs 7.9 miles, from the Wilmington Riverfront to historic Old New Castle. The boardwalk is the first leg of the trail journey for bicyclists, runners and hikers, who head out from the DuPont Environmental Education Center at the Riverfront. Unlike most other trails in Delaware, the boardwalk provides a very special experience with the marsh that lies below, regardless of the time of year.

Proud to be a funding partner of this trail, DNREC invites you to experience all this trail has to offer, even though it is not on DNREC property.



Gordons Pond

5 As part of Gordons Pond Trail, nearly half a mile of elevated boardwalk takes hikers and bikers over salt marsh, and provides unique views from two scenic overlooks where wildlife is bound to be spotted. The boardwalk is a sweet surprise in the middle of a trail that begins with a path of crushed stone. As it skirts the edge of Gordons Pond and transitions back to crushed stone at the end of the boardwalk, the 3.2-mile trail continues through an upland pine forest. Besides the diversity



of trees, the tall grasses provide habitat for herons and ducks. The trail also affords views of two World War II observation towers, and two small islands within the pond itself. If you love nature, hiking or biking, Gordon's Pond should be on your must-do list. The trail connects Cape Henlopen State Park to Rehoboth Beach. To get to the boardwalk, just go to Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes. The trail starts near Herring Point Beach.

5 Challenging Contests to Try

by Phil Miller,
Abby Shepard &
Jennifer Childears

Attention Photographers!

Delaware Watersheds Photo Contest

1 2019 marks the second year of the Delaware Watersheds Photo Contest, open to photographers of all ages and skill levels. The contest, sponsored by DNREC's Nonpoint Source Program, aims to share the beauty of Delaware's diverse environment, while acting as a vivid reminder that everything happening on land within the state's watersheds also directly affects what happens in our waterways.

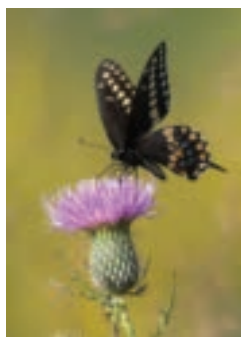
While images from any of Delaware's watersheds are accepted in the contest, participants must enter their striking photographs in one of three categories:

- Natural Landscapes and Waterscapes of Delaware
- Native Wildlife of Delaware
- Native Plants of Delaware

First-place winners of each category receive park passes, and their winning photos are featured in *Outdoor Delaware*. More information on the contest can be found at www.de.gov/nps.



1st Place:
*Natural Landscapes
and Waterscapes*
– Seaford on the
Nanticoke by
Tammy Kearney



1st Place: *Native
Plants – Thistle Weed*
by Earl Blansfield



1st Place: *Native Wildlife – Short-eared owl
in Flight* by Earl Blansfield



Geocaching

2 If you're looking for an exciting new way to both enjoy the outdoors and support Delaware's beautiful state parks, try your hand at geocaching.

What is geocaching? It combines outdoor activity with technology and adventure gaming. A geocacher places a waterproof container in a public place, calculates its coordinates with a handheld GPS unit, and posts the cache location on the internet at www.geocaching.com. Other geocachers download the coordinates on their GPS units and try to find the cache. The caches usually contain items to trade and a logbook.

As you hunt for these geocaching treasures across the state, you'll learn more about our parks as well as develop your orienteering or GPS skills. If you take a bag to pick up any trash you find along the way, you'll also be doing important work to help keep the parks clean and beautiful. To ensure that no park resources are disturbed, anyone wishing to place a cache in a state park must complete an application and be issued a permit by the park. Learn more at <https://www.destateparks.com/Adventures/Geocaching>.

Recycled Cardboard Boat Regatta

3 It's one of the wildest contests you'll find in Delaware: the Recycled Cardboard Boat Regatta on Aug. 3 at the Nanticoke River Public Marine Park in Blades. Whether you're competing in the races or coming to watch, the whole family can have an afternoon full of fun and laughter. You'll see everything from Viking ships to submarines, and all kinds of other floating creations. But there's just one catch – they must be built from cardboard.

The contest is open to individuals, groups, businesses, and paddlers of all ages. First-place awards are given for fastest times, and special awards are given for "Pride of the Fleet," "Most Whimsical Boat," and "Team Spirit." Also, spectators pick a "People's Choice" award winner, while a special "Titanic Award" is given for the most dramatic sinking.

The event also includes music, food and beverages, and opportunities to learn from the Reclaim Our River (ROR) partnership, about how to protect Delaware's waterways. The partnership is devoted to bringing monthly events, workshops, and recreational activities to the Nanticoke Watershed. The series offers participants fun opportunities to connect with Delaware's waterways, and provides important information on water quality that can help protect aquatic resources. Visit www.de.gov/nps for program details.



DNREC's Delaware State Parks Passport Program

4 Visit all 17 Delaware state parks, and stamp your digital passport along the way. The mission of the Delaware State Parks Passport Program is to connect families and friends to the resources the parks have to offer. From natural rock walls at Alapocas State Park to the sandy beaches of Cape Henlopen State Park, there is something for everyone. Participating in the passport program is easy. Simply plan your hike, beach day, or historical tour, and while you're at the park, take a "selfie" at the park's designated passport photo location. Save your photos, and then upload your passport selfies online to share your adventures. Complete all photo locations to win awesome Delaware state parks gear, and an annual pass for the next calendar year! Find a complete list of all passport locations at www.destateparks.com/passport.



Hunting & Fishing Photo Contest

5 Throughout the years, the DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife's photo contests have showcased people enjoying fishing and hunting in Delaware. The contests promote outdoor recreation and conservation, and encourage all Delawareans to participate in these outdoor activities. Each year is a challenge for staff judges to choose the top five photographs out of all the great entries. Pictured here are the most recent first place winners.

You don't have to be an angler or hunter to enter, but you do have to be a Delaware resident, and the photos must be taken in Delaware. First-place winners will be featured on the covers of the 2020 Fishing Guide, and the 2020/2021 Hunting and Trapping Guide. The submission deadline for the fishing photo contest is Sept. 30. Photo submissions for the hunting contest will be accepted Sept. 1 – Jan. 31, 2020. This year's theme for the fishing photo is "Get Out and Fish DE," and for the hunting photo, "Get Out and Hunt DE." For more information, contact Jennifer Childears at 302-739-9910. Get outdoors with your camera to enjoy and promote fishing and hunting in Delaware!



(Top), 1st Place - 2019 Hunting by Harry Hoch (Bottom), 1st Place - 2019 Fishing by Israel Mora

5 Fascinating Nature Centers You Should See

by Sharon Smith,
Lynne Pusey &
Maggie Pletta

Baldcypress Nature Center

1 After kayaking or walking the trails at Trap Pond State Park, stroll inside the Baldcypress Nature Center and discover the history behind Delaware's first state park. The center's exhibits both entertain and educate, and provide a nice respite from playing outdoors. Learn about the ecosystem that makes up the southwestern section of the Delmarva Peninsula through the center's informative exhibits. Its large windows offer spectacular views of the pond, towering trees, and wildlife. The nature center is the perfect spot to relax and get lost in the natural beauty of Trap Pond State Park, which is located in Laurel.





Killens Pond Nature Center

2 After jogging or hiking the trails, stop and take a break on the deck overlooking the pond at Killens Pond Nature Center. Take in the natural beauty that surrounds this modern, LEED-certified center nestled in the woods. Marvel at the water that is collected from the roof of the building to be reused for washing boats and other tasks. If you like to chill, or just appreciate nature, Killens Pond Nature Center is the perfect place to be. There is not a bad view to be had. If you are bringing your children or grandchildren, they will enjoy learning about the different wildlife that calls the park home. Located just south of Dover, Killens Pond State Park is easily accessed from either Route 13 or Route 1.



Outdoor Delaware

Like What You See?

*Subscribe to Outdoor Delaware:
DNREC's award-winning quarterly magazine!*

Subscribe online – <https://de.gov/outdoordelaware>

\$8 – 1 year | \$15 – 2 years | \$20 – 3 years

Contact us: elizabeth.shockley@delaware.gov | 302-739-9902

To subscribe, for address changes, or to renew:
matthew.cardona@delaware.gov | 302-739-9902



DuPont Nature Center

3 The DuPont Nature Center, at the Mispillion Harbor Reserve, is a DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife aquatic education facility that connects visitors with the Delaware Bayshore region. Inside the center, visitors can experience exhibits that highlight Delaware Bay's natural history and ecology, with a focus on spawning horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebirds that visit the harbor each spring. Other exhibits include aquariums featuring live horseshoe crabs, fish, shellfish and terrapins, as well as educational videos and a live nature cam and osprey cam. The nature center also has an observation deck with beautiful views of the Mispillion Harbor. To learn more, visit www.de.gov/dnc.



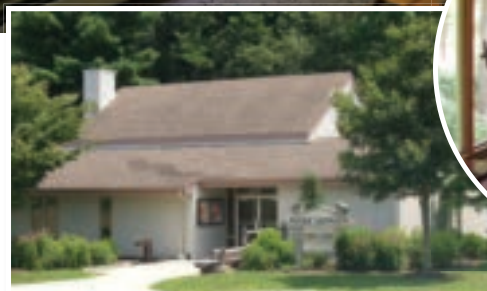
St. Jones Reserve Nature Center

4 Nestled in Kent County, just south of Dover Air Force Base in Dover, is the St. Jones Reserve Nature Center, and headquarters for the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR). Enjoy a quiet walk on the two-mile marsh trail that takes you across the boardwalk and over the marsh, and out to the Ted Harvey Wildlife Area. Along the trail, keep an eye out for local wildlife like foxes, fiddler crabs, and marsh wrens. Then, head inside to enjoy the newly-renovated exhibits, and explore the different habitats found along the Delaware Bay, and discover what DNERR is doing to study and protect our natural resources. And, if viewing the exhibits isn't enough, sign up for a boat trip, a canoe paddle, or one of the other free programs or volunteer opportunities at the St. Jones Reserve, to experience everything the Delaware Bay has to offer. After a visit to learn about the natural beauty of the area, stop next door at the John Dickinson Plantation and discover what life was like along the St. Jones River in the 18th century.



Brandywine Creek Nature Center

5 No matter what the weather is like outside, visitors at Brandywine Creek Nature Center can sit back in a rocking chair in front of a great picture window and just relax. Bring your lunch, a cup of tea, or maybe even your favorite book. Take in great views of nature and the many birds that call Brandywine Creek State Park home. Feeders attract all types of birds, including the Arcadian flycatcher, tree swallows, the Carolina chickadee, the red-bellied woodpecker and many more. Need to decompress? This is the place to go in northern Delaware. Brandywine Creek State Park is located off Route 202, just six miles from downtown Wilmington.



5 Places to Rent Boats *by Sharon Smith*

Trap Pond State Park

1 Trap Pond State Park, in Laurel, is known for its baldcypress trees and its natural beauty. The best way to take in Delaware's first state park is by boat. You have plenty of options to choose from when you visit the park. You can rent a rowboat, pedal boat, canoe, or kayak. Trap Pond State Park also offers visitors narrated pontoon boat tours. Visitors won't want to miss the "Night Sounds" pontoon tour – a great opportunity to hear the sounds the swamp makes after dark. You can rent a rowboat for an hour for \$7, or a single kayak for an hour for \$9. The pontoon boats are not available for rent, but tours are available. For more information, visit www.destateparks.com/FindPark.



Cape Henlopen State Park

2 For those who love to kayak or use a stand up paddleboard, Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes is the place to go. For gorgeous sunsets, historic lighthouses, and being up-close to pods of bottle-nosed dolphins, then you really need to visit. Cape Henlopen State Park offers access to the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It's also within walking or biking distance from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal. Quest Kayaks offers rentals at the park. Visitors just need to stop by the fishing pier to reserve their kayak or paddleboard. For first-time boaters, Quest also offers tours. Prices vary depending on whether you rent a single or tandem kayak, but a two-hour single kayak rental starts at \$25. For details, visit www.questkayak.com.



Lums Pond State Park

3 Just a 15-minute drive from Newark, Lums Pond State Park has everything a boater could want. It is the largest freshwater pond in Delaware, and considered one of the best fishing spots in the state. Anglers can expect to catch perch, pickerel and largemouth bass. It couldn't be any easier to enjoy a day on the water when you visit Lums Pond. There is no need to strap your kayak to the top of your car, or hitch a trailer, to carry a canoe or rowboat. Lums Pond has everything you need to enjoy a relaxing day on the pond. The park rents pedal boats, rowboats, canoes, and kayaks by the day or the hour. The rental fees range from \$7 an hour for a rowboat, to \$15 an hour for a pedal boat. The fee also includes a floatation device. Once on the water, visitors can look for herons, egrets, osprey and cormorants, dragonflies and turtles. Novice boaters can contact the park to participate in guided trips and receive kayak lessons. Visit www.destateparks.com/FindPark for more info.



Fenwick Island State Park

4 It's hard to be down at the beach or the bay and not be struck with the desire to experience the ocean or bay by boat. Visitors need only stop by Coastal Kayak in Fenwick Island State Park. There, you can rent kayaks, sailboats, and paddleboats. If you like riding the waves or getting near dolphins, renting a kayak or a sailboat is the best way to experience Fenwick Island. If you are a novice to kayaking, you do not have to try it alone. Coastal Kayak offers kayak rental tours and instruction. Kayak rentals for an hour are \$15; paddleboard rentals for an hour are \$20. For more details, visit www.coastalkayak.com.



Killens Pond State Park

5 Visitors don't need to drive to the beach or the bay to have fun on the water. There is plenty of fun to be found at Killens Pond State Park, located just minutes away from Dover in Felton. Calm waters and tree-lined banks provide a laid-back, peaceful afternoon or morning on the water. You do not need your own boat or

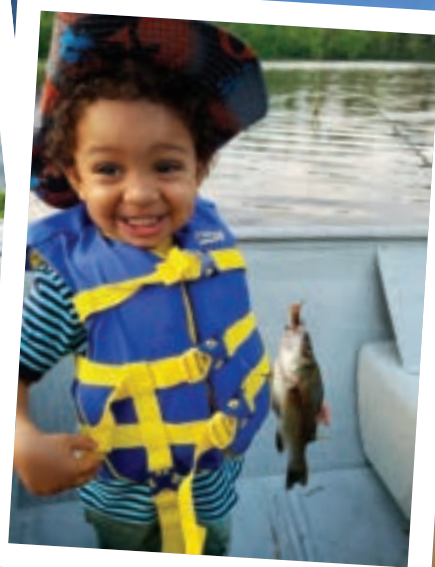
kayak, just come to the park, where you can rent a canoe, pedal boat, single or tandem kayak for an hour. Rentals range from \$8 an hour for a canoe, to \$11 for a tandem kayak. If you like to fish, the pond is stocked with catfish, largemouth bass, and perch. If you get tired of boating, you can always take a break, and relax at the nature center that overlooks the peaceful pond. For details, visit www.destateparks.com/FindPark.



50 WAYS TO

Escape the Ordinary

at DNREC State Parks & Wildlife Areas



SUMMER 2019
Outdoor
Delaware



By buying products with the FSC label you are supporting the growth of responsible forest management worldwide.



Outdoor Delaware uses petroleum-free ink.